



## OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

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### **Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2** Review Process Outline

Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI)

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## Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI)

### I. General

#### A. Timeline

1. Applications available Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM (ET)
2. Applications due March 15<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM (ET)

#### B. Submission

1. Online-only submission at <http://www.broadbandusa.gov/>

#### C. Which agency to apply to?

1. Only apply to one
2. For 75% rural areas, last mile apply to BIP

a) “BIP will concentrate on funding Last Mile Projects. The RUS will consider funding Middle Mile projects but strongly encourages such project only be undertaken by current RUS loan or grant recipients.”

#### D. Award funding range

1. \$5 million - \$150 million

#### E. Announcement of awards

1. Rolling basis starting June 2010
2. All will be awarded by Sept. 30, 2010

### II. Application Review Process

#### A. **Screened for initial eligibility according to the following statutory requirements<sup>1</sup>**

1. Access for unserved
2. Access for underserved
3. Educates public about benefits of broadband
4. Increases speed, access, and/or use of broadband by public safety agencies
5. Increases demand for broadband among general public

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<sup>1</sup> See NOFA Sec. II.A. pg. 10-11

- ❖ All projects must address one or more requirements

**B. Applications ranked according to the following funding priorities<sup>2</sup>**

1. General
  - a) Economic growth and job creation
  - b) Viable, sustainable, scalable projects
2. Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) funding priorities - *IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE (listed greatest to least)*
  - a) Will deploy middle mile to serve/upgrade service to community anchor institutions
  - b) Will deploy middle mile within a private-public partnership
    - (1) Especially with stakeholders from the local community
  - c) Will deploy middle mile to stimulate growth in impoverished areas
  - d) Will deploy middle mile to serve a community college
  - e) Will deploy middle mile to public safety entities
  - f) Will deploy middle mile and last mile to unserved or underserved
  - g) Will deploy middle mile with more than 30% non-federal funds
  - ❖ The more criteria that apply, the stronger the application
3. Last mile project priorities (not in order)
  - a) May only be considered for review as part of a middle-mile project
  - b) Will only be funded after projects with middle mile components have been considered
  - c) Last-mile service should not be more than 20% of total cost of project

**C. Applications will be evaluated by objective reviewers in order of priority according to the following criteria<sup>3</sup>**

1. General notes
  - a) After all reviews are complete, the scores will be averaged, and a percentile will be established above which projects will be considered “highly qualified”

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<sup>2</sup> See NOFA Sec. II.B.1.b. pg. 12-15

<sup>3</sup> See NOFA Sec. VII.A.1. pg. 57-63

- (1) Highly qualified applications will be considered for further awards by NTIA program staff
  - (2) Highly qualified applications will be given a due diligence review
    - (a) Priority for due diligence will be given to applications that best conform to funding priorities
2. Reviewer criteria (to be scored out of 100 total points)
  - a) Project Purpose (20 points)
    - (1) Fit with statutory purposes
    - (2) Fit with BTOP priorities
    - (3) Potential for job creation
    - (4) Collaboration with Recovery Act or other state and federal programs
    - (5) Additional consideration for socially or economically disadvantaged small businesses or Indian tribes
  - b) Project Benefits (20 points)
    - (1) Level of need in proposed funded service area
    - (2) Impact on the proposed funded service area(s)
    - (3) Network capacity and performance
    - (4) Affordability of services offered
    - (5) Nondiscrimination, interconnection, and choice of provider
  - c) Project Viability (30 points)
    - (1) Technical feasibility of the proposed project
    - (2) Applicant's organizational capability
      - (a) Expertise of management team
      - (b) Past track record of organization with similar projects
    - (3) Level of community involvement in project
  - d) Project Budget and Sustainability (30 points)
    - (1) Reasonableness of the budget

- (a) The lower the costs per household or per subscriber, the better
- (2) Sustainability of the project
- (3) Leverage of outside resources
  - (a) Non-federal funds
  - (b) Extra consideration for over 30% non-federal funds
  - (c) Cash funding is best, as opposed to loans or in-kind contributions

**D. State government consultation<sup>4</sup>**

- 1. NTIA will ask each state via its Governor which areas are unserved and underserved
- 2. Governor can promote certain projects or areas as being critical/important
  - a) But influence is limited to consultative role
- 3. States have 20 calendar days to submit comments to NTIA after being asked for their consultation
- 4. NTIA will make comments of states and tribes publicly available online

**E. Due diligence performed on select project applications<sup>5</sup>**

- 1. Applicants may be asked to submit additional information
- 2. Applicants may be asked to clarify or further substantiate claims made in their applications
- 3. Important to respond to requests in a timely fashion
- 4. May discuss with applicant specific modifications to application
  - a) Potential to still fund, but with reduced federal funding share
  - b) May only fund part of a proposal
- 5. Important that applicants demonstrate that their project would not have been implemented right away were it not for federal funding from the Recovery Act
- 6. Not all applicants who go through due diligence will be awarded funds

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<sup>4</sup> See NOFA Sec. II.C.3, pg. 19-20

<sup>5</sup> See NOFA Sec. II.C.4, pg. 20-21

7. At the end of due diligence, NTIA staff will complete a summary of their analysis for each project reviewed

**F. Final step: BTOP Director submits project recommendations to Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications (OTIA) Associate Administrator<sup>6</sup>**

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<sup>6</sup> See NOFA Sec. II.C.5. pg. 21-23